(d) to what extent it will be helpful in improving farm productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the Resolution adopted on 29.05.2007 by the National Development Council (NDC), a new State Plan scheme of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for agriculture & allied sectors, namely, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKV Y) has been launched during 2007-08 with an envisaged outlay of Rs. 25,000/- crore during the 11th Five Year Plan.

The broad objective of RKVY is to incentives the States to increase public investment to achieve 4% growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors in the 11th Five Year Plan.

The new scheme requires the States to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans and maintain, or increase, the share of expenditure in agariculture and allied sectors in the State's total Plan expenditure. The allocation of funds to he States is based on the net un-irrigated area, gross State agricultural product to be attained by the end of the 11th Plan, and increase in the State Plan expenditure in agriculture and allied sectors.

The ACA would be made available to the States as 100% grant.

The new scheme provides the States flexibility and autonomy in the process of planning and execution of scheme as per the local agro-climatic conditions to improve farm productivity and production.

Survey of drought affected areas

† 1575. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that a survey of all drought affected areas of the country has been made;

if so, the details of the amount of financial assistance being given to the drought affected States, State-wise; and

by when the said amount of financial assistance would be provided to Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In view of deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon 2007 (1.6.2007 to 30.9.2007), the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have declared parts of the State as drought affected. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought from the funds available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Additional assistance is considered from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in accordance with the laid down procedure on submission of a memorandum by the State Government. * No memoraridum for assistance from NCCF for the current drought has so far been received from the Governments of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. In response to the memorandum for drought relief submitted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh seeking assistance of Rs. 1548.91 crores from the NCCF, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State for assessment of the situation. Further action will be taken in accordance with the procedure for assistance from the NCCF.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.